

BOOK REVIEW

Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada, Second Edition by Henry A. Gleason and Arthur Cronquist. 1991 (seventh printing, 2004). xlvii + 993 pp. ISBN 0-89327-365-1 \$69.00 (hardcover). The New York Botanical Garden Press, Bronx, NY.

My e-mail read: “Just wondering—why do you want the book reviewed when the second edition has been out for years?” The reason is that this wonderful book, now in its seventh printing, has several new and useful features that will make it worth your buying a copy. Most noticeably: the cover has changed, corrections have been made in the text, the indexes have been expanded, and there are now photographs and short biographies of Gleason and Cronquist included in the volume.

The first thing you’ll notice is the new cover. The bright green, slightly flexible, hard cover has been replaced by a stiffer cover that is darker green and illustrated with an impression of a beautiful drawing of *Liriodendron tulipifera* by Bobbi Angell. Inside the front cover there is still the helpful outline map of the 48 contiguous states with the shaded portion representing the coverage of the *Manual*. A very useful feature printed inside the back cover is a ruler, something we at UNH have been having students tape into their books for years. The *Manual* dimensions have been increased slightly while retaining the pagination of previous printings; thus, the page numbers still match those in the *Illustrated Companion*.

There have been several positive changes made in the front matter. First, there is now a table of contents, which will be very helpful for locating a family quickly. Of course, you can still find the page number for a family by scanning the expanded index section. Second, there is a foreword written by the Holmgrens describing the changes made to the *Manual* and asking for corrections for future editions. Third, Noel Holmgren has contributed short biographies of Henry Allan Gleason and Arthur Cronquist—a delight for all of us who love history as well as systematics. The photos are classics, too: Dr. Gleason with an armload of folders of herbarium specimens, and Dr. Cronquist in his office with his feet up on the table, absorbed in a book and surrounded by books and specimens. Fourth, a short floristic summary has been added to the page with frequently used abbreviations. Fifth, the listing of “more frequently cited botanical authors” has been left out of this printing. I suppose it was difficult to keep this list to a manageable size, and those abbreviations can be found elsewhere, but I am sad to see it gone because I like to think that

students in systematics classes found it helpful and interesting. Sixth, the glossary has been moved to follow the text.

Although the new printing is not a revision of the text of the second edition, it does incorporate some corrections in nomenclature suggested by members of the botanical community. In addition, in some cases nomenclature has been changed to agree with that in published volumes of *Flora of North America North of Mexico* and synonyms have been added. Author abbreviations have been standardized to agree with Brummitt and Powell's *Authors of Plant Names*. A very helpful change, I think, is that now a period follows only those names that are abbreviated; several spaces set off the common name from the scientific name and the description. Miscellaneous errors have also been corrected during proofreading. The very useable keys and thorough descriptions we are familiar with from previous printings constitute the bulk of the volume.

The back matter has been changed considerably in this printing, and now includes the glossary and an expanded index section. A couple of style changes to note in the glossary are that there is no longer a wide space setting off the term from its definition (I'm sorry to see that gone because I found it helpful, visually), and there is now a blank line to indicate the transition to the next letter in the alphabetical listing of terms. The terms are still easy to pick out in the list because of the boldface type. A big change in the new printing of the *Manual* is the revised and expanded indexing, contributed by Neil Harriman. In this volume, common and scientific names have been put into separate indexes, which will be kind of frustrating for me since I frequently find myself drifting into a search of the wrong list in other books with separate indexes (the down side of being bilingual with respect to plant names). As a benefit, more entries are offered in each index. In the index to scientific names, all infraspecific taxa have been listed, not just those in selected genera. Synonyms and taxa casually mentioned in the text are listed as well, and are set apart by being in italic type. In the separate index to common names, a much more detailed listing is provided than in previous printings with the combined index. The result is an index section that is almost double the number of pages than in previous printings, and which should prove to be extremely useful. The last change to this section of the book is that there are no longer blank pages available for notes.

The final page of this new printing of Gleason and Cronquist's *Manual of Vascular Plants* has a photo of Arthur Cronquist's back as he walks off into the woods, a book held behind him. My favorite since published in its second edition—the very useable and now corrected and

expanded *Manual*—will continue to be my choice in the field as well as at the microscope.

—JANET R. SULLIVAN, Department of Plant Biology, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824.